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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY El Salvador

DATE DISTR.

SUBJECT Prospect of General Avendano as Presidential Candidate
25X1A

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letter of 16 October 1975 from the
Director of Central Intelligence
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. The private secretary of General Jose An el Avendano, present Minister of Interior, has implied that the General may soon become the official candidate in the presidential elections in El Salvador.
2. Some degree of confirmation was obtained from Miguel Angel Espino, private secretary to President Castaneda, that Avendano was being considered as a possible official candidate. There have been discussions recently in the Casa Presidencial of the necessity for creating a new official candidate who would be really strong. Espino added that the question of an official candidate still depended on whether or not President Castaneda decides to drop all thought of staying in power himself for two more years.

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Comment: There is a possibility that the information about General Avendano has been planted by President Castaneda himself. The President has reportedly promised in private conversations to support General Mauro Espinola as the official candidate, but has persisted in sowing doubt in the public mind as well as among officials that Espinola would be his candidate. It is possible that the President is deliberately creating a state of confusion so that his continuance in power will eventually become accepted as the only way out of the muddle.

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